

Message Text

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S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 1389

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(KISSINGER, HENRY A.), TZ

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA: SKETCH OF NYERERE

1. FOLLOWING IS SKETCH OF PRESIDENT JULIUS K. NYERERE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO SECRETARY FOR HIS VISIT HERE. IT IS BASED PRIMARILY ON MY OWN FOUR MONTHS OF RELATIVELY CLOSE CONTACT WITH NYERERE BUT DRAWS ALSO ON EXPERIENCES OF MY PREDECESSORS AND OTHERS.

2. AT AGE 54 NYERERE IS AT HEIGHT OF HIS POWERS. HE HAS NO SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC OPPOSITION AND REMAINS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIS PEOPLE. HE IS AMONG THE MOST HIGHLY RESPECTED LEADERS IN AFRICA. HE HAS ATTRACTED LARGE SCALE AID FROM A VARIETY OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND HAS HELD RIGOROUSLY TO HIS OWN POLICY LINE WHILE DOING SO. HE TAKES PRIDE IN HIS CHOSEN ROLE OF MWALIMU, "TEACHER," AND IN BEING DIFFERENT FROM MOST OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS WHOM HE PRIVATELY SEES AS ROUGH MILITARY MEN, BUFFOONS, OR GOOD BUT SIMPLE FELLOWS.

3. HE HAS A DISARMING MODESTY THAT GOES WELL WITH HIS SLIGHT, GRACEFUL FIGURE, PIXYISH WIT, AND SUPERB COMMAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. (HE HAS TRANSLATED JULIUS CAESAR AND THE MERCHANT OF VENICE INTO SWAHILI.) HE CAN BE ALMOST AS GOOD A LISTENER AS HE IS A TALKER, SITTING SILENTLY WITH A SCOWL OF CONCENTRATION. IF HE HARBORS ANY RACIAL RESENTMENT, HE HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO SHOW IT.

4. NYERERE IS DOCTRINAIRE, MILITANTLY SOCIALIST AND EGALITARIAN,

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STRONG IN HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE "HAVE-NOTS" OF THE WORLD.

HE IS A MAN WITH A MISSION, OUT TO BUILD INSTITUTIONS AND ATTITUDES WHICH WILL PERSIST AFTER HE IS GONE. HOWEVER, HE CAN ALSO BE PRAGMATIC AND IS SOMETIMES GIVEN TO EULOGIES OF "BOURGEOIS VALUES," SUCH AS DISSENT AND DISCUSSION, WHICH HE CLAIMS HE RECOMMENDS TO THE SOVIETS--ABOUT WHOM HE IS FOND OF TELLING MIDLY CRITICAL ANECDOTES. (HE MAY HAVE SIMILAR VIGNETTES ABOUT THE US FOR THE SOVIETS.)

5. HE RETAINS AN AFFINITY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH, LIKES CALLAGHAN, IS PARTIAL TO LEFTIST ENGLISH JOURNALISTS, AND ADMIRES COMMUNIST CHINA AND CUBA. ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, HE IS SCHIZOPHRENIC, GRANTING THAT ITS POLICY IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO REASON AND LOGIC BUT ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF ITS "RICH COUNTRY" MOTIVATIONS. HE KNOWS AFRICA WELL, IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO A "NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER," BUT KNOWS AND CARES LESS ABOUT GLOBAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

6. ABOVE ALL, NYERERE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A MORAL MAN AND AN INTELLECTUAL, NOT GIVEN TO BARGAINING AND BACK-SCRATCHING. WHEN Faced WITH A POSITION HE DOESN'T LIKE, HE WILL TRY TO EVADE, CLAIMING IGNORANCE OF THE FACTS OR INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND HIS OPPOSITION. IF PRESSED, HE IS APT TO RETREAT INTO STUBBORN SILENCE OR, RARELY, BREAK INTO EMOTIONAL AND LESS THAN COHERENT INDECISIVENESS. ONCE HE HAS PRESENTED A POSITION HE REACTS NEGATIVELY TO EFFORTS TO COMPROMISE OR TO "WHITTLEAWAY" AT IT. BUT HE IS USUALLY INERENTED IN WHAT CAN BE DONE TO "ALLAY THE FEARS" OF OTHER PARTIES TO A DISPUTE. AND HE IS RECEPTIVE TO INDIRECT APPROACHES WHICH RAISE "RELATED QUESTIONS" OR SEEK TO EXPLORE "OTHER ASPECTS" OF A MATTER.

7. NYERERE IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. HE WILL BE CONSCIOUS THAT HE IS IN A "BIG LEAGUE" GAME. HE MAY AT TIMES ASSUME A POSE OF QUIET DIGNITY DESIGNED TO GIVE HIM MAXIMUM ROOM FOR MANEUVER AND, ESPECIALLY IF ANY OF HIS CABINET MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, TO SHOW THAT HE CAN HOLD HIS OWN AND IS VERY MUCH A PRESIDENT TALKING TO A FOREIGN MINISTER. (HE MAY ALSO IN FACT BE JUST A LITTLE SHY.) ONCE TALKING, HOWEVER, IN PRIVATE, AND CONVINCED HE HAS AN UNDERSTANDING LISTENER, HE IS LIKELY TO LET GO, COMPLETE WITH SPARKLING EYES, INFECTIOUS GRIN, QUICK-SILVER HANDS, AND EXUBERANT APPRECIATION OF BON MOT OR SUBTLE THOUGHT (HIS OWN OR THE VISITOR'S). IN THIS

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AMBIANCE, USEFUL BUSINESS CAN BE DONE WITH HIM. SPAIN

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